

REMARKS

This Amendment is being submitted in response to the November 4, 2004 Examiner Interview, and as Supplemental to the Amendment submitted on October 4, 2004.

As a preliminary matter, during the Examiner Interview of November 4, 2004, the Examiner indicated that the PTO 1449 forms for the Information Disclosure Statements of September 4, 2003 and February 25, 2004 would be included with the next Action.

In addition, during the Examiner Interview, the undersigned discussed the claim amendments of claims 1 and 10. As noted on the Interview Summary, the Examiner indicated that such amendments appear to overcome the currently cited Kuroi reference. By this Amendment, Applicant has amended claims 15 and 23 in a similar manner as claims 1 and 10, and as such, submits that claims 15 and 23 are likewise patentable over the Kuroi reference.

Further, Applicant has rewritten claims 16, 18, 24 and 26 into independent form. Since claims 16 and 18 were previously indicated to contain allowable subject matter (July 2, 2004 Office Action), and since claims 24 and 26 contain analogous subject matter as claims 16 and 18, Applicant submits that claims 16-19 and 24-27 are now in condition for allowance. Further, since claim 28 contain analogous subject matter as allowable claim 22, Applicant submits that claim 28 is likewise allowable.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that claims 1-28 are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of this application are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal

Supplemental Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 09/546,189

or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

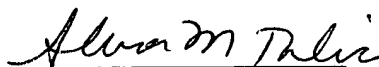
Respectfully submitted,

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